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Wm Gilchrist

TWO MONTHS

IN

FORT LA FAYETTE.

BY A PRISONER.

"In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and District wherein the crime shall have been committed, which District shall have been previously ascertained by law; and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him: to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence."—*U. S. Constitution.*

NEW YORK:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.
1862.

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LIST OF PRISONERS

AT FORT LA FAYETTE,

From 20th July to 28th October, inclusive.

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
July 20,	E. S. Ruggles,	Fredericksburg, Va.	
"	P. M. Quillan,	Charleston, S. C.,	Aug. 7
" 31,	Thos. Fitzpatrick,	Baltimore, Md.,	Aug. 18
"	James E. Murphy,	Portsmouth, Va.	
"	John H. Cusick,	Woodville, Md.	
"	Dr. E. Johnson,	Baltimore, Md.,	Sept. 17
"	C. M. Hagelin,	"	Oct. 24
"	S. H. Lyon,	"	
"	I. W. Davis,	"	
"	Charles Howard,	"	
"	W. H. Gatchell,	"	
"	R. H. Alvy,	Hagerstown, Md.	
Aug. 3,	A. E. Smith,	San Francisco, Cal.	
" 11,	I. Williams,	Norfolk, Va.	
" 14,	Robert Muir,	Charleston, S. C.,	Oct. 17
" 18,	C. Copporal,	Carroll Co., Miss.	
" 18,	T. S. Serrill,	New Orleans, La.,	Sept. 5
" 20,	Pierce Butler,	Philadelphia, Pa.,	Sept. 24

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
Aug. 20,	L. De Bibian,	Wilmington, N. C.,	Sept. 17
" 22,	George Miles,	Richmond, Va.,	Oct. 5
" 23,	J. G. Guthry,	Petersburg, Va.,	Oct. 3
" 24,	J. R. Barbour,	Lake Providence, La.	
" 25,	F. M. Fisk,	New Orleans, La.,	Oct. 2
"	D. C. Lowber,	"	
"	Mayor J. G. Berritt,	Washington, D. C.,	Sept. 14
"	P. McCarthy,	Norfolk, Va.,	Oct. 3
"	J. Riley,	"	"
"	J. Williams,	"	"
"	A. Wilson,	"	"
"	J. A. Marshall,	Charleston, S. C.,	"
"	George O. Gladden,	"	"
"	J. Journallie,	"	"
"	J. P. N. Salbo,	"	"
"	C. Forrester,	"	"
" 26,	S. Eakins,	Richmond, Va.	
"	D. Reno,	Columbia, S. C.,	Sept. 4
" 27,	S. J. Anderson,	New York,	Oct. 11
" 28,	R. Tansill, U.S.N.	Prince William Co., Va.	
"	T. S. Wilson, U.S.N.	Springfield, Mo.	
"	H. B. Claiborne, U.S.N.	New Orleans, La.	
"	H. Cenas, U.S.N.	"	
"	Wm. Patrick,	Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Sept. 13
" 29,	E. B. Schnable,	Lycoming, Pa.,	Oct. 24
" 30,	U. B. Harrold,	Macon, Ga.,	Sept. 18
" 31,	R. S. Freeman,	"	
"	W. H. Ward, U.S.N.	Norfolk, Va.	
"	A. J. DeLaguel,	Alexandria, Va..	Sept. 20
Sept. 1,	B. F. Grove,	New York,	Oct. 8
"	F. E. Williams,	Choctaw, Ark.,	Sept. 7
"	H. L. Reynolds.	Mobile, Ala.,	Sept. 13

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
Sept.	3, J. C. Rahming.	New York,	Sept. 18
"	4, H. A. Reeves,	Greenport, N. Y.,	Oct. 5
"	5, J. Chapin,	Vicksburg, Miss.,	Oct. 17
"	7, E. B. Wilder,	Newark, N. J.,	Oct. 14
"	R. Elliott,	Freedom, Me.	
"	8, A. S. Sullivan,	New York,	Oct. 21
"	C. Barclay,	Schr. "Middleton,"	Oct. 14
"	P. Cargan,	"	Sept. 26
"	E. Bonneaud,	"	Oct. 9
"	R. Roul,	"	Sept. 26
"	W. Williams,	"	"
"	W. Simms,	"	"
"	A. Clifton,	"	"
"	A. Stromb,	"	"
"	9, A. D. Wharton, U.S.N.	Nashville, Tenn.	
"	C. J. Faulkner,	Martinsburg, Va.	
"	10, G. L. Bowne,	Key West, Fla.,	Sept. 24
"	11, J. W. Wall,	Burlington, N. J.,	"
"	12, R. B. Walker,	New York,	Oct. 19
"	M. C. Stanley,	"	Sept. 21
"	13, J. K. Millner,	Danville, Va.	
"	Marshall G. P. Kane,	Baltimore,	Oct. 11
"	R. Drain,	Loudon Co., Va.	
"	A. Dawson,	"	
"	B. Eggleston,	Washington, D. C.,	Sept. 17
"	B. F. Corlies,	Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Sept. 18
"	B. Burton,	"	
"	E. C. Myatt,	Schr. Col. Long.	
"	C. Williams,	"	Oct. 9
"	P. Reilly,	"	
"	T. Kelly,	"	"
"	W. Perry,	Bark Sir Wm. Raleigh,	Sept. 26

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
Sept. 13,	J. Angus,	Bark Prima Donna,	Sept. 26
"	C. McClenachan,	"	"
"	W. Smith,	"	"
"	J. L. Newlin,	Schr. Albion,	
"	W. St. George,	"	
" 14,	W. H. Winder,	Philadelphia, Pa.	
" 16,	B. F. Langley,	New Orleans, La.	
"	J. A. McMasters,	New York,	Oct. 23
"	M. Stannard,	Madison, Conn.,	Oct. 14
" 17,	D. Corey,	Somerset, N. J.,	Oct. 21
" 19,	L. Sturtevant,	New Orleans, La.,	Sept. 27
" 20,	G. A. Hubbell,	Bridgeport, Ct.,	Sept. 26
" 21,	J. A. Bateman,	Camden, Ala.,	Oct. 2
" 23,	Wm. Gilchrist,	Philadelphia, Pa.	
"	F. Wyatt,	"	
"	J. M. Haig,	Baltimore, Md.,	Oct. 26
"	J. J. Heckert, Md. Leg.	Cecil Co., "	
"	E. G. Kilbourne, "	Anne Arundel Co., Md.	
"	J. H. Gordon, "	Allegheny Co., "	
"	W. E. Salmon, "	Frederick Co., "	
"	A. Kessler, "	" "	
"	T. J. Claggitt, "	" "	
"	Dr. B. Mills "	Carroll Co., "	
"	C. J. Durant, "	St. Mary's Co., "	
"	J. H. Maddox,	St. Mary's Co., Md.	
"	T. H. Maddox,	Washington, D. C.,	Oct. 4
"	W. R. Miller, Md. Leg.	Cecil Co., Md.,	
"	J. W. Maxwell, "	"	
"	P. T. Raisin, "	Kent Co., Md.	
"	J. L. Jones, "	Talbot Co., Md.	
"	G. W. Landing "	Worcester Co., Md.	
"	J. M. Brewer, "	Baltimore, "	

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
Sept. 24,	C. T. Sargeant,	Yarmouth, Me.	
" 25,	Ex-Gov C F Morehead,	Louisville, Ky.	
"	R. F. Durrett,	"	
"	M. W. Barr,	"	
" 26,	T. P. Scott, Md. Legis.	Baltimore, Md.	
"	H. M. Warfield, "	"	
"	L. Sangston, "	"	
"	S. H. Thomas, "	"	
"	Mayor G. W. Brown,	"	
"	F. K. Howard,	"	
"	F. W. Hall,	"	
"	H. May, M.C.,	"	Oct. 11
"	S. T. Wallis, Md. Leg.	"	
"	M. G. Harrison, "	"	
"	C. H. Pitts, "	"	
"	R. M. Dennison, "	"	
"	L. J. Quinlan, "	"	
"	A. A. Lynch, "	"	
" 28,	J. C. Brain,	Nashville, Tenn.	
Oct. 2,	P. B. Loyall, U.S.N.,	Norfolk, Va.	
"	H. K. Stevens, U.S.N.,	South Carolina.	
"	W. R. Butt, "	Portsmouth, Va.	
" 5,	Dr. C. McGill,	Hagerstown, Md.	
"	H. G. Thunder,	Oldham Co., Ky.	
"	F. M. Crow,	"	
"	J. W. Griffith,	"	
"	A. McDowell,	"	
"	J. W. Roberts,	Harrodsburg, Ky.	
"	S. J. Woolridge,	"	
"	W. E. Kearney,	Clark Co., Ky.	
"	J. Back,	Marion Co., Ky.	
"	J. T. McFeat,	Harrodsburg, Ky.	

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
Oct. 5,	G. P. Pressy,	New York.	
"	E. Payne,	Lexington, Ky.	Oct. 14
"	W. Grubbs,	Madison Co., Ky.	
"	W. E. Wright,	Marion Co., "	
"	L. S. Holsclaw,	Bullett Co., "	
" 7,	E. Baun,	Schr. Mary Wood.	
"	J. A. Douglas,	"	
"	C. G. Neil,	"	
"	E. Sibern,	"	
"	S. F. Newton,	Schr. Albion.	
"	R. S. Grisson,	"	
"	J. Swindell,	Schr. Ocean Wave,	Oct. 9
"	G. Barker,	"	"
"	E. Hendricks,	"	"
"	E. Brindon,	"	"
"	J. Johnston,	"	"
"	W. Brown,	"	"
"	P. White,	Schr. Harriet Ryan,	"
"	J. B. Hoggerd,	"	"
"	C. Thompson,	"	"
"	J. Murphy,	"	"
"	M. F. Copehart,	"	"
"	G. W. Bernard,	Newbern, N. C.	
"	G. Shackleford,	Beaufort, N. C.	
"	G. O. Van Amringe,	Wilmington, N. C.	
" 8,	Capt. M. Berry,	Brooklyn, N. Y.	
" 11,	A. Da Costa,	Charleston, S. C.	
" 12,	A. R. Carter,	Baltimore, Md.	
" 13,	J. W. Packard,	N. Bridgewater, Mass.,	Oct. 21
" 14,	C. H. Tyler,	Prince Wm. Co., Va.	
" 18,	I. G. Mask,	Baltimore, Md.	
"	J. E. Lindsay, U.S.N.,	Greensboro, Mo.	

DATE.	NAME.	WHERE FROM.	DISCHAR'D.
Oct. 18,	W. M. Page, U.S.N.,	Winchester, Va.	
"	H. H. Dalton, "	Aberdeen, Miss.	
" 21,	J. I. Shaver,	Toronto, Canada.	
" 22,	Wm. Pierce,	New Orleans, La.	
" 23,	F. D. Flanders,	Malone, N. Y.	
"	J. R. Flanders,	"	
" 24,	R. W. Jeffray, U.S.N.,	Virginia.	
" 25,	Capt. H. L. Shields,	Bennington, Vt.	
" 28,	B. Morley,	Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Oct. 29

☞ Those names having no date of discharge were forwarded to Fort Warren.

Two Months in Fort La Fayette.

BY A PRISONER.

"For it seemeth unto me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him."
23d Chap. Acts of Apostles, 27th verse.

Fort La Fayette was completely emptied of all its prisoners on the 30th October, 1861, they being then transferred to Fort Warren, in Boston Harbor; since then, in fact almost immediately, it has again been, and is, used as a prison; whether these latter prisoners have been in anywise differently treated from the former, the writer does not know, as happily he has not had the opportunity; the experiences related in this pamphlet were *enjoyed* prior to 30th October, 1861.

For La Fayette is situated in New York Bay, about eight miles below New York City. In former times it was better known to those who

go down to the sea in ships as Fort Diamond, so called from its shape. It is built on an island, about one quarter of a mile from the Long Island shore, and perhaps two miles from the southern end of Staten Island—it is entirely surrounded by deep water, and has no other communication with the shore save by boats.

On the Long Island shore is situated Fort Hamilton; directly opposite, on Staten Island, is the, as yet, unfinished Fort Richmond. These three forts are pretty much in a line, and are likely intended to support each other. Fort La Fayette is much the smallest of the three, and the oldest; it is built of brick, the walls about five feet thick, and has two tiers of guns, besides those, en barbette, looking seaward, the side facing Long Island is merely pierced for musketry. On the ground floor there are twenty heavy thirty-two pounders, on the floor above there were supposed to be the same number twenty-four pounders; what there was on the roof was unknown to the prisoners. The yard around which the Fort is built, contains about one-quarter of an acre, the centre was a grass plot used for a parade ground, and it was ornamented by three huge furnaces for heating

shot, and had a handsome brass twelve-pounder commanding the sallyport. Outside the walls there was an esplanade all around, of about forty feet wide, as, however, the prisoners were never allowed to walk around, no description can be given, other than that there seemed to be about two hundred cannon stored there.

The Fort itself was under the immediate command of Lieut. Wood, 14th U. S. Infantry, he was styled Commander Wood, and was under orders to Col. Burke at Fort Hamilton; the garrison consisted of one company U. S. soldiers.

So much for the Fort. To the tourist it no doubt has a romantic appearance, and would look well in a picture of this most beautiful of bays, but to the prisoner being led to its gloomy portals it seemed a vile blot upon that fair scene; the bay alive with shipping and fishing boats, the "green fields beyond the swelling flood," and all nature alive and happy, save that still repulsive dungeon-looking place, with its jaw of a sallyport gaping to receive its victims.

The modus operandi of getting in, though somewhat of the most summary, still had its forms; first, of course, like Miss Leslie's fish,

the prisoner had to be caught—this was rather easily done, as all forms of law were dispensed with, and a telegraph order being generally the only warrant—when caught however, the prisoner was quickly transferred by the most expeditious route, regardless of expense, and subject entirely to the caprice of the officers having him in charge, some in irons and some not, to Col. Burke at Fort Hamilton.

He would give the officers a receipt for the bodies, and transfer them, under military guard by boat, to Commander Wood, at Fort La Fayette. On arriving there, the prisoners would be ushered into the presence and again receipted for, the Fort Hamilton guard would depart, and the separation from the world appeared complete.

Commander Wood would then take, and give a receipt for, whatever money might be on the person, have the baggage and person examined to see that no arms, money, or contraband articles, such as letters to prisoners, etc. got in, announce the room that each should occupy, and order the Sergeant of the Guard to convey the new citizen thither.

From thenceforth the prisoner was under

military rule, any communication with the Commander must be in writing, through the Sergeant of the Guard, and all orders unhesitatingly obeyed.

The prisoners' quarter at first sight did not appear inviting, and in fact grew less and less so daily. They were *all* on the ground floor, and brick paved, without a carpet or mat of any kind; three of the rooms used as prisoners' quarters were small, and compared with the others, would have been comfortable for two or three occupants. They had a narrow glazed window and a fire-place, and were in size about ten feet by fifteen, with a low arched ceiling. As, however, in place of two or three, they always had from eight to ten occupants, very little could be said in their praise—but still the inhabitants of these rooms were always looked upon as rather the aristocracy of the Fort.

The balance of the prisoners were confined in three large apartments, which were lighted and ventilated each room by the port-holes of four heavy thirty-two pounder cannon, these immense guns, with their immense carriages and machinery, occupied more than half the

space, and were the most unpleasant looking bed-fellows imaginable.

The furniture of all the rooms was a small iron bedstead, a few chairs and plain pine benches, and a couple of washstands; the bedding was a thin mattress, one pillow, one soldier's blanket, two cotton sheets, and one cotton pillow case, other than this there was no furniture or chamber conveniences whatever. The floor, as before said, was brick paved, and damp, the windows, port-holes and doors were loose and swinging, the beds were so crowded together that there was no room for walking between them, and it was only by doubling them up in the daytime that any room could be obtained—two of the rooms always contained about forty occupants; the rest, from ten to fifteen.

All the sweeping or cleaning that was done was by the prisoners themselves; none of the garrison ever doing anything in this way. The sheets and pillow-cases were but once exchanged, and when washed, was at the prisoners' expense. No washing was allowed to be sent out of the Fort, but was done by the Commander's family servant, at a charge of 12½ cents a piece,

and it generally took from two to three weeks before a washing was returned. As no prisoner had time allowed him to get up an extensive wardrobe, there were some novel experiences on this question, many discovering for the first time a talent for clothes-washing hitherto totally unsuspected, and all a spirit of resignation to soiled linen quite new, if not refreshing.

The keeping of these rooms clean was, as before stated, left entirely to the prisoners, and it was a lively and instructive scene from six to eight in the morning; then it was that blankets were brought out and shook almost shoddyless, cotton sheets hung up to air, and mattresses subjected to a good broomsticking; then was there a dust raised by elderly amateur sweepers, who would discover on their triumphant return from the door, that they had not half swept, and had the labor to go over again; then it was that forty men would try to perform their morning ablutions in two bowls of water, which for most of the time was dipped from the sea, and left on the skin a seeming coat of glue, which required all day to remove; then it was seen who had friends outside and who not, by the possession

of towels, looking-glasses, blacking, brushes, etc. but bye-and-bye every one was washed and dressed, the beds all made, the rooms all swept, and every one, looking his best, was ready to partake of the creature comforts furnished by the United States, to these her favorite children, without money and without price —except liberty.

The feeding room was early christened the "United States Hotel;" it was a large room on the ground floor, brick paved, and furnished with four heavy thirty-two pounder guns, carriages, etc., with three plain pine tables, and pine benches on each side of them.

These tables and benches were cleaned by being swept with the dirty broom that swept the dirty floor; no other method was ever known to be tried, its success was by no means flattering. This room was not in charge of the prisoners, but was attended to by four soldiers detailed as cooks; at first sight their greasy flannel shirts, and general dirty appearance seemed in harmony with the surroundings, and accounted for their presence; but, after a short acquaintance, it became evident that their appointment must have been owing

to family or political influence, as they were proficient in the art of "how not to do it."

The table furniture, consisted of, for each prisoner, one tin cup, one tin plate, one iron tablespoon, and one pair common knives and forks, these were made to answer for all meals, and were never by any accident clean enough to handle without soiling and greasing the fingers.

There was no regular time for meals; breakfast sometimes at seven, sometimes at ten A.M., dinner sometimes at eleven A.M., sometimes at three P.M., etc.

Suppose we walk into breakfast—it is announced by one of the greasy cooks, and the word is passed by the prisoners to each other, "Rebels, breakfast at United States." On each tin plate is a great chunk of cold boiled pork, alongside each plate is a tin cup full of (anything but clear drinkable) coffee, and at intervals down the table are slices of very good bakers' bread.

A new arrival is apt to make a poor meal; he cannot sit down on the filthy bench, so he stands. He does not attempt the pork, but will try some coffee, which he spills in trying

to lift the cup by its greasy handle, etc.; the old hand, however, gets along better, he brings a newspaper to sit on, he takes two hands to his coffee cup, he puts some vinegar on his pork if he can get it, and on retiring with the new comer, is loud and facetious in his praise of the "United States Hotel."

The dinner is announced in the same manner, is furnished in the same style, and in same dishes as breakfast. On each tin plate is a lump of boiled beef, apparently cut with a hatchet; in each tin cup is a greasy looking mixture, which on examination is seen to be intended for rice soup; the piles of good bakers' bread are strewn along the table, with a few plates of salt at intervals; the rice, nine times out of ten, is cooked no softer than it came from its original package, and the whole greasy mess, in its greasy cup, to be eaten with a greasy spoon, seldom fails to turn the stomach of some of the guests.

This dinner is the usual one; it is however varied perhaps three days in the week: thus in place of beef and rice soup, it may be pork and bean soup, in which case the lucky finder of a bean would find occupation for the balance of

the day in exhibiting it. Once or twice a week also boiled potatoes were added to the feast; when they happened to be eatable they were an appreciated luxury, but only once or twice were they boiled enough. On two occasions boiled ham was served, both times so little cooked that the blood followed the knife.

The supper consists of tea or coffee, in the inevitable greasy tin cups, and slices of bakers' bread.

No person can appreciate the misery entailed by this treatment, from any pen and ink or verbal description. The view into the filthy kitchen, the filthy looking cooks and attendants, the brick floor slippery with dirt, the greasy tables, benches and dishes, the hoggish way in which things were served, no officer present to prevent the frequent insults of the attendants, all this and much more can only be appreciated by being endured.

The truth is, that all these political prisoners were put on a private's army rations, which, though good enough of the kind, was made unbearable in the cooking, etc. Some there were who pretended to know of such matters, who claimed that some one was making money off

the Government's allowance, but this could not be traced, the only thing of that kind that was patent to all, was the 12½ cents a piece charged prisoners for washing by Lieut. Wood.

One day was the same as another. At six A.M. a drummer and fifer awoke all hands by playing the reveille, the garrison would turn out to roll call, and the prisoners to wash, etc. At nine A.M. the guard would be mounted for the next twenty-four hours, with a good deal of drumming and fifing; the Sergeant of the new guard would receive from him of the old guard, all the prisoners, who would stand in their quarters to be counted; during the afternoon there might be some little parading and drilling of the garrison, and at six P.M. the soldiers would again answer to their names, the stars and stripes would be hauled down—the drum and fife playing vigorously—and the prisoners be locked up in quarters for the night. At nine P. M. all hands would be allowed out of quarters for a few minutes, and again locked up, the drum and fife would play the tattoo, and at nine and a quarter every light must be extinguished in prisoners' quarters—sentries are pacing in front of port-holes and windows,

and peremptorily and blasphemously forbid any talking they can hear.

Most of the prisoners were men who were accustomed to spend the evening in reading or social converse, to them this early extinguishing of lights and stopping of conversation was very irksome. For hours the tossings and the sighings gave proof that strong men were suffering their thoughts to wander home to wife and children.

In such a damp location as the bay of New York, with damp brick floors, with rattling doors and port-holes, a good deal of sickness might be expected; there was not much however, colds were almost universal, but serious cases were rare—it was well they were, for no provisions whatever existed for sickness. Some dozen cases were at various times seriously ill, which, of course, was a serious business to all the occupants of a chamber where the beds were so crowded. Did the prisoners light a candle to attend to their suffering brother, the hoarse voice of the sentry at the window would order the light put out; did they try to attend him in the dark, the same voice would command silence; did he wish his quarters opened so as

to visit the closets, it would take half an hour pounding at the door ere the Corporal of the Guard could be induced to open, which all must admit would seem an age to a man afflicted with diarrhœa, a very prevalent disease.

There was, in all, four cases of extreme sickness, which should have had, in common humanity, separate quarters, good nursing and attendance; their fellow-prisoners, medical and lay, did all that goodness of heart could do, but a weak, feverish man, lying in a crowded room with forty others, and four big cannon, whose Government allowance was the rations named above, had a time somewhat of the hardest. Now and then the Surgeon at Fort Hamilton would come over; he would consult with the prisoner-physicians, of which there was always more than one, and send over such medicines as were ordered. In only two cases was any attention paid to sickness. Marshall Kane, of Baltimore, was removed to Governor's Island, in consequence of Fort La Fayette being too unhealty for him, and James M. Haig, of same town, was kept for several days in the guard-house, and then removed to a lunatic asylum.

For about ten days the water in the wells,

which depended on the rain for their supply, was very low and unfit to drink; it was full of animalculæ of quite a respectable growth, and had an odor anything but pleasing: there was a plentiful supply of Croton water in New York and abundance of water-boats to bring it, but that was delayed until it could be no longer.

All letters to and from prisoners had to be read by the Commander, or some other officer at Fort Hamilton, and prisoners were limited to one page of letter sheet, Some could not say all they wanted in that space, and in some cases longer letters were returned with an order to condense, this gave a good deal of dissatisfaction, and led to some angry correspondence.

At first each prisoner was confined strictly to his room, not being allowed beyond the threshold; after a while this rigor was moderated, and walking up and down on the flags in front of all the quarters was allowed, till six P.M., and one hour each morning and afternoon the privilege of the central plot of grass was allowed.

Visitors were rigidly excluded, except under an order from Washington. A few relatives gained access in this way, but as the visits had

to be short, and made in a room where one or two soldiers were stationed, and could see and hear all that passed, the satisfaction was not as great as it would seem to be. A Mr. Ludlow, of New York, said to be an attorney, was an exception to this rule; he appeared to come when he pleased, and had his interviews in private. His mission was always to prisoners who had money, and was to effect their release for a consideration—at least so it was said by those whom he sent for. It was stated that his prices ranged from $500 to $2000, and that he was successful in several cases; some appeared to know that he either was or had been a law partner of a cabinet officer, and that the business would hardly bear the scrutiny of a congressional committee of investigation, but nothing certain seemed to be known by anybody. The Marshall of New York also seemed to have a pass for himself and friends, and would sometimes bring down quite a little crowd to see the animals. On one Sunday, Chief of Police Kennedy and Simeon Draper were among the visitors, and entered somewhat freely into discussion with some prisoners, particularly with Gov. Morehead, of Kentucky; he explained

how bad the treatment was, and showed the discomforts in a very feeling and eloquent manner. The newspapers of New York next day mentioned this visit, and claimed that the visitors reported that the prisoners were living in a style equal to a first class New York hotel, and were well treated, that they were allowed to walk on the roof and around the Fort, all of which was as false as it could be. A released prisoner, in reply, published a letter in the New York Herald, stating the truth, which called forth an answer from Col. Burke, in which he claimed that he and Commander Wood had done every thing possible for the comfort of the prisoners, and hinted that the Herald's letter was a violation of parole, and might subject the writer to incarceration. How much pains Col. Burke took, is, of course, unknown, but as he was never seen in the Fort but on two occasions, and then for a very short time, holding no communication with the prisoners, and no improvement was apparent in consequence of such visits, the prisoners could hardly see the effect of his efforts.

About the middle of October, however, preparations were made to make things more com-

fortable; additional blankets, mattresses, pillows, sheets, etc.; some tables and chairs, stoves, and above all, rope matting to cover the brick floors, some wash bowls and chamber furniture were thankfully received. Those who wanted fires had to get for themselves the wood and coal, and it was not an uncommon thing to see a man who always had servants to wait on him, shouldering an armful of wood, or carrying a scuttle of coal.

Commander Wood's position must have been a very unpleasant one; he associated but very little with the prisoners, a great many of whom expressed a good deal of contempt for him, which likely they would have done to any person holding his position toward them. On Sunday mornings the garrison had a dress parade, which was the only one he attended; then he was dressed up in style, regulation hat, gold epauletts, sword, and revolvers, and would, accompanied by the Orderly Sergeant, slowly walk through all the quarters, and this was apparently the extent of his efforts.

In addition to the political prisoners, there was about twenty privateers. These were kept in one small room by themselves; they

had no liberty of exercise, and they wore irons on their ankles. Early in October they were removed to Bedloe's Island, and when they again appeared, on their way to Fort Warren, were not ironed.

The foregoing shows, without any exaggeration, but rather the reverse, the treatment by the United States of the political prisoners in Fort La Fayette. With but very few exceptions, all were men of cultivation and refinement, had been accustomed to the comforts of home, and many of them to luxurious homes. All were arrested in a summary manner, without a legal warrant; were not under any legal charge or indictment; were for the most part abducted from other States where courts and judges were in existence; were denied a hearing or a knowledge of a charge, and were ready and anxious to meet any accuser before a legal tribunal, therefore treating such men as criminals, and feeding and caring for them as felons, was considered an agravation of cruelty totally uncalled for.

Of course everything the prisoners could do to alleviate their cases was done by them,

and by gradual degrees, and some expense, men managed to live who could not have done so on Government fare. One of the number was appointed Commissary, and through him the prisoners were allowed to spend their money for necessaries, which he procured from New York. Subscribers could get the newspapers each morning, and very soon there was quite a stock of dishes, coffee pots, chafing dishes, apples, cold meats, pickles, condiments, etc., and by-and-bye messes were formed, some acting as cooks, and some as dishwashers, until finally one mess of fourteen achieved a cooking stove and its utensils, furnished pretty much all with a cup of the best coffee at six A.M., had omelets for breakfast, and bread pudding for dinner, drawing its rations from the United States, and buying what else was wanted from New York, it also carried its luxury so far as to have a melodeon and singers, and was getting perfectly contented when broken up by the removal to Fort Warren.

Another mess had some patent contrivance of cooking by spirit lamps, and it, too, was astonishing itself at its success; besides this,

there were minor messes, all getting along well, and all helping one another, which had a tendency to much reduce the "table d'hote" at the United States Hotel. Besides this, one of the sergeants, whose wife lived in the Fort, was allowed to take boarders. She did so at a charge of one dollar a day, and always had more applicants than she could accommodate.

But chiefest of all the blessings was Mrs. ——, who lived opposite the Fort on Long Island. She prepared and sent over daily, cooked in the best style, and of the best, quite a quantity of choice food, enough for from eight to ten; her supplying was once stopped, but she worked on till permission was granted again, with some restriction. Any want that she knew of was supplied, delicacies for the sick, and clothing for the destitute, she was liberal with. No Fort La Fayette prisoner, rich or poor, can ever forget her kindness. God bless her.

Each prisoner was allowed, at his own expense, a moderate stock of wine or liquor; it was kept by a sergeant, and issued in certain quantities daily. All of a sudden, however, the supply was prohibited. No explanation

was given, nor was the stock or its value ever returned; it remained in the Fort when the prisoners went to Fort Warren.

The newspapers of the day, a few books, cards, draughts, chess, writing letters, etc., constituted the pastimes; there was very little political talking, and apparently very little growth of reverence for those who had ordered the imprisonments.

The arrival of prisoners, almost daily, was quite an event; their names were recorded by a self-constituted clerk, the cause of their arrest discussed, and they were sympathized or joked with, as might appear to be agreeable, always treated kindly. The discharge of prisoners was always subject of hearty congratulation and promises of correspondence, not frequently lived up to by the fortunates.

On Sundays all games were suspended by mutual consent, and once or twice in the day all who choose would assemble in one of the large rooms, and one of the number would lead in the Episcopal service for the day, and read a sermon. It was surprising to see how many had with them their book of "Common Prayer," and gratifying, the fervor with which all en-

tered into the spirit of the beautiful service; in these services the garrison never joined, though any soldier would have been welcome.

There was but one known attempt at escape, D. C. Lowber of New Orleans, who was the only one who claimed to be, and gloried in being a secessionist, had by some means or other furnished himself with some money, and a couple of life-preservers. On the night of the 26th Oct., after the lights had been extinguished, he picked the lock of one of the port-hole gratings, put his clothes in a bucket, and lowered himself on to the esplanade, his life-preservers were bound around him, and he apparently contemplated a swim to Staten Island, a distance of two miles at least, and, perhaps, a great deal further if the tide was running fast; the water was cold, so it was hardly possible he could have lived. He proceeded to work his way to the wall, when he was espied by the sentry, whose advancing footsteps he did not hear, being very deaf, and his chances were all over. The sentry made a furious outcry for "Sergeant of the Guard No. 4," commanded Mr. Lowber to stand still or he would shoot him, repudiated all his attempts

at conciliation, and to be allowed to re-enter the port-hole, informing him that it was too late to attempt to bribe him, etc.; although the noise awoke all the prisoners, it seemed difficult to awake the Sergeant, who was a long time coming. At last he came, much to the relief of the sentry, who was, judging by his voice, the most frightened of the two. Mr. Lowber was taken to the guard-house and put in irons, and so kept until the removal to Fort Warren, when he again appeared among the prisoners; he had managed somehow to retain his irons, and expressed his intention of making them his chief mantel ornament at home. He has been since released from Fort Warren, and has gone to Great Britain.

Another opportunity of escape was offered to a prisoner from Kentucky, a working man, who had no funds or friends in New York; he was mistaken by a sentry for one of the hands belonging to a boat unloading wood at the Wharf, and at the point of the bayonet was told he had no business in the Fort, and ordered on board his boat; he, however, earnestly remonstrated, claimed his privileges, and finally convinced the sentry of his error.

Doubtless had Mr. Lowber succeeded in getting away, it would have been much worse for the remainder, as it was, all in his room—about forty—were looked upon with suspicion as accomplices. As soon as he was ironed and secured, all hands were called up from bed, made form a line on the cold floor, in the picturesque uniform of shirt tails, answer to names, etc.

The cannon on the second floor were frequently used to stop vessels proceeding to sea without permission of the captain of a guardship stationed above. On such signals being given, the whole garrison was ordered to quarters, and every prisoner immediately locked up; a great tramping would be heard over head, and finally the ball would go whistling and screaming across the bows of the offender; the whole proceeding could be seen through the port-holes, and generally resulted in the vessel heaving to. Not always so, however, a very fast steamer did escape in open day, and it was said a sail vessel had slipped by at night—the firing was rather wide of the mark—only once was a vessel hit.

On 30th October, a ferry-boat appeared at

the wharf and all prisoners went on board, en route for Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

Mrs. ——, the prisoners' kind friend, was standing on the bank opposite her house, and received from all a hearty greeting as the boat swept by. At Governor's Island, the steamboat "State of Maine" was waiting, and the Fort La Fayette prisoners, together with some other State prisoners from Governor's Island, and the officers captured at Fort Hatteras were assigned to her upper or state-room deck, some two hundred in all; there were twenty-five state-rooms, mostly occupied by the officers in charge; there also came on board about six hundred prisoners of war, who were quartered in the lower cabin. In addition, there was a military guard of about two hundred, besides the boat hands, making a total of over one thousand souls crowded on a boat not capable of holding over five hundred. The voyage was commenced at five P.M., and then it was discovered that no provision was made for feeding this crowd. Some boxes of soda crackers were hunted up, and some one extemporized coffee in a limited quantity, and that was the fare allowed. By-and-bye, it turned out that

no beds or sleeping accommodations were provided—not even a chair was to be found. A few, by good luck, managed to secure the empty state-rooms, and made the sleeping accommodations therein do duty for as many as possible, but the most part spent two sleepless and restless nights in that prison-boat. The next evening at five P.M., Fort Warren was reached, and then it was learned that Col. Dimmick was not at all prepared to receive any such company, and the night must be passed on board.

The next morning, after the prisoners of war had been marched in, the State prisoners followed; they found it was as Col. Dimmick said, that he was totally unprepared—he had not a table or chair, bedstead or bed for one man—he had no provision, so that a raw ham on top of a barrel in the middle of the parade, and a barrel of soda crackers was eaten from by the half-famished new arrivals. For five whole days did the prisoners live without beds or chairs, or any regular meals. After that, supplies were received, and no prisoner was ever heard to complain of Col. Dimmick or his garrison.

The change of treatment from uncivil acts in Fort La Fayette, to the gentlemanly treatment in Fort Warren, was most refreshing. The rooms allotted to the prisoners were comfortable, with the exception of a few basement rooms being damp, and the area for exercise was much more extensive.

At Fort La Fayette, the whole New York Bay was open to view through the port-holes, which, though iron-barred, whiled away pleasantly many an hour. Fort Warren had no port-holes to look through, it was open only to the sky and the bleak Massachusetts winds; many on this account would have preferred the old quarters, particularly as stoves and matting had just been received, and messes were organized. Still, on the whole, Fort Warren is a vast improvement over Fort La Fayette; even including the horrors of the passage from one to the other.

No single prisoner had had a trial at any time granted him; those who have been discharged were so on various conditions of parole, or taking the oath, and have thus been sent home resting under the stigma of imprisonment, and without the opportunity of setting themselves right before the community.

The few personal and very much condensed cases which follow, are only given as specimens of the prisoner's own version, and not as by any means singular. Every prisoner complained of gross injustice, and violation of his personal guaranteed rights. Each prisoner expressed his willingness and anxiety for a trial, or confronting of his accusers. Each prisoner complained that he was not allowed to appeal to the courts for his rights, and several had writs of habeas corpus waiting to be served on Col. Burke, who, to avoid such service, was virtually a prisoner within the walls of Fort Hamilton. The writing out of each individual case would be an unnecessary labor, as one would be a virtual repetition of the other.

This pamphlet is issued not as an electioneering document, the fall elections being over, but simply as a record, so that the rising generation may know what has happened in the noon of the nineteenth century, in the Great Republic, and perhaps avoid its repetition. "God save the Union!"

C. F. Sargeant, of Yarmont, Maine, was admitted Sept. 24th, he was engaged in com-

merce, and was arrested at his home early in September, taken to Portland and put in prison. Some friends got wind of it, and procured a writ of habeas corpus, the officers tried to evade it by leaving town with him in a carriage, intending to take the train for Boston at another station. In this, however, they were frustrated by his friends heading them off with the writ, and all hands returned to Portland.

The District Attorney had the case postponed till three P.M. next day, and he was remanded to prison; about midnight all charges against him were withdrawn, he was released and went home to his business.

About two weeks after, having occasion to go to Boston on business, Mr. Sargeant, when near there on the train, was jumped upon by three Marshals, with cocked revolvers, ironed, and taken to Boston, and from thence sent to Fort La Fayette, without any charge, and without knowing by whose order he was so treated.

J. R. Barbour, of Lake Providence, La., arrived 24th Aug., he was on his way home from a summer tour for his health, which was feeble,

and was arrested in Syracuse, N. Y., on the sworn charge of a stranger, that he believed he had been buying arms and supplies for twenty thousand rebels, and cast into prison. Some gentlemen in town, perfect strangers to him, insisted that he should have a trial, and a day was accordingly set for his hearing at Auburn, N. Y., they giving large security for his appearance. He was anxious to have a hearing without a witness immediately, but had to remain at a hotel in Syracuse while his accuser tried to hunt up evidence. At the day appointed he reported himself at Auburn, released his securities, and was put in Auburn jail to have his hearing next morning. In this he was disappointed; about midnight the Marshal came to his cell, put irons on him, and started for New York. In due time he arrived there, was marched through the streets in irons, though guarded by three armed Marshals, and safely lodged in Fort La Fayette.

Wm. Pierce, of New Orleans, La., was admitted on 22d October, he was a young man, and was arrested in Boston, Mass., on 17th October, on the charge of being an officer in the Rebel service. His hearing lasted from

day to day, until the 21st October, when he was honorably discharged, having proved satisfactorily to the court the falsity of the charge, the difficulty he had to get away from New Orleans, and the long and painful journey endured to reach Boston where his sick wife resided.

His friends were congratulating him on his release, and his wife waiting to accompany him home, when a Marshall called him aside as for some private conversation, stepped around the corner with him, when he was forced into a carriage, and driven off to the train for New York. All this on a telegraphic order from Wm. H. Seward.

George A. Hubbell, of Bridgeport, Conn., was admitted 20th September, he was a vendor of newspapers on the cars of the Naugatuck Railroad, and was arrested as he was stepping on to his train for his daily journey. He had no charge preferred against him, but was hurried off to Fort La Fayette in the most summary manner, and without any intimation of the authority of, or cause of his arrest.

He surmised that it was on account his having, a few days before, when in New York,

bought ten copies of the "New York Daily News," and given them away to old customers for that paper on his route. The paper was not suppressed in New York, it was bought and sold as any other, but the Government had prohibited it being carried in the mails, and Mr. Hubbell had stopped circulating it on his route. He was kept only about a week.

Captain H. L. Shields, of Bennington, Vt., was admitted 25th October; he is a retired officer of the United States army, and now a farmer at Bennington. While in the field with his laborers, a few miles from town, a messenger drove up in a hack, saying a friend whose name he had forgotten, was at the railroad depot, and wished to see him before the train started. As the time was short, without any change of clothes or preparation for a journey, he embarked with the messenger and was driven to the station. In place of a friend, he there met two United States Marshalls, who, without allowing him any communication whatever with his family, hurried him right along, unprepared as he was, to Fort La Fayette.

He afterwards understood that officers im-

mediately proceeded to his house, alarming his wife who was in delicate health, and overhauling all his correspondence in the hope of finding something to sustain the newspaper charge of holding correspondence with the Rebels; it is presumed none such was found, as he was early discharged from Fort Warren.

Mr. A. Da Costa, of Charleston, S. C., was admitted 11th October; he is well known to travellers as a very popular purser on Gulf steamers running from New Orleans. The blockade suspended his business, and he started to join his family living in Mexico. At Louisville, Ky., he bought a ticket for New York via Montreal, having a desire to visit that city. He arrived at Detroit on Saturday evening, and remained over Sunday, entering his name in register of the Russell House as from New Orleans. On Monday morning, after paying his hotel bill, he was arrested on an affidavit of some one to him a stranger, stating that he believed that Mr. Da Costa was on a mission from the Rebel authorities to foreign potentates; his only baggage, a valise, was examined, he was searched, but nothing found, and committed to prison. Some merchants, un-

known to him, took an interest in his case, and sued out a writ of habeas corpus. The officers in charge hearing of this, and not having received the usual telegraphic order from Washington, took him away at night to Adrian, giving out that they were going to Monroe, in in the opposite direction; there he remained one day, and then was taken to Toledo, Ohio, there the necessary order was procured, and he was forwarded direct to Fort La Fayette. He was entirely unacquainted North, and his innocence might have been presumed from the fact that he remained thirty-six hours publicly in Detroit, when ten minutes would at any time have put him in Canada. He was finally released from Fort Warren, it is believed, in exchange for some prisoner held by the Confederates, and sent to Fortress Monroe. So it is quite probable that by this action he has been forced into the Rebel service.

Captain Robert Tansil, late of U. S. ship Congress, entered 28th August, he had just arrived at Boston in the Congress, and hearing of the rebellion, or, perhaps, for some other cause, had resigned his commission. He was immediately arrested and sent to the Fort; he

had no charges preferred against him, and to his repeated applications for any, or for privilege to visit Washington to meet any, and visit his family, received no favorable answer. After being confined over four months, he was exchanged for a United States officer, and sent to Fortress Monroe—thus recognizing him as an officer in the Confederate service, and making it almost his duty to serve in that cause which had gained him his personal liberty. A number of other United States navy officers were imprisoned in the same manner, and the result has likely been the same in at least a majority of the cases.

Twenty-five members of the Maryland Legislature arrived on the 23d and 26th September. A few days previously they had met at the City of Frederick, according to adjournment from their regular meeting, for the express purpose of completing some financial bills. They claimed that, according to the adjournment, no other business could come before that body; the newspapers asserted that the intention was to pass an act of secession. At its regular session, this same body had the question before it, and decided that it had no power

to pass such an act, which could only be done by the people in convention. Nevertheless, they were all arrested by an armed force, and sent to the Fort, and the session of the State of Maryland Legislature was thus broken up.

To some, and, perhaps, to all of them, the new oath of allegiance was offered as the condition of their liberation. Their reasons for refusing it, and, in fact, the reasons of all who refused it were stated as,

1st. They had committed no act of disloyalty; were conscious of no such intent; had no charges or indictments pending against them; therefore, should not be singled for any such test, which, if submitted to, would be admitting that there was some cause against them.

2d. This oath was in direct violation of every oath already taken by lawyers, legislators, and foreigners. That was an oath swearing to bear true allegiance to the State in which it is taken, and to support the Constitution of the United States. This is swearing to bear true allegiance to the United States, regardless of any act of State Legislatures or Conventions of its people. Having taken one oath which is

claimed to have been faithfully lived up to and still binding, they cannot take another annulling the same.

Fourteen men were brought from Kentucky, and arrived 5th October; they were mostly laboring men, destitute of clothes and money, and stated that they were arrested in different parts by the Home Guard, and lodged in jail at Louisville, on the charge of intending to join the rebel service. They employed counsel, denied the charge, asserted that they one and all voted the Union ticket, and a day was appointed for their trial. On that morning, very early, they were marched out of jail under a military guard, placed in omnibusses, driven to the ferry, and taken over to Indiana, from thence direct to the Fort. Some of them arrived quite sick, and one came near dying, as they had no overcoats for the journey, or even a change of clothes, they having been arrested on the road and in the field at their daily occupation. Gov. Morehead took a kind interest in these men, and they were soon made more comfortable. Some time in November these men were turned loose in the streets of Boston, one thousand miles from

home, and without means of getting there. The citizens or the City Government, it is believed, forwarded them.

Mr. Wm. H. Winder, of Philadelphia, Pa., entered 14th September; he was arrested 11th September, on a charge of conspiracy to overthrow the Government; by whom the charge was made he never was informed; he was held in custody till 13th September, to answer said charges, which were then all withdrawn by the District Attorney. That same afternoon, without any warrant being shown, he was arrested by the United States Marshall on a telegraphic order from Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, and immediately forwarded to the Fort. After his arrest, his office was visited, his desks, etc., broken open, and his papers, covering a period of thirty years, ransacked. Since his incarceration, he has been urging the furnishing of the charges against him, but without success. The only information that has been furnished him being, singularly enough, in a letter from Simon Cameron himself, distinctly denying that he ever ordered Mr. Winder's arrest, or knew of it till he saw it in print, and stating that he had requested his immediate release from Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

F. D. and J. R. Flanders, two brothers, of Malone, N. Y., entered 23d October, they were editors of a newspaper in that place, and could conceive of no cause for their arrest, except that they kept conspicuously in their paper the following curiosities.

EXTRACT OF A SPEECH BY DANL. S. DICKINSON, N.Y.

"No amount of power can ever maintain the Union—all the paper laws we have, all the strength and power of the Constitution, the army and navy, the National Legislature and the Executive power, are all not worth a single rush to *compel* a State to remain in the Union one single hour longer than it chooses to remain."

EXTRACT FROM EX-PRES. MILLARD FILLMORE, N.Y.

"Can any one have the madness to believe that our Southern brethren would submit to be governed by a sectional Chief Magistrate. Suppose that the South, having a majority of the electoral vote, should declare they would only have slaveholders for President and Vice-President, and should elect such. Do you think we would submit to it? No! not for a moment! And do you believe your Southern

brethren are less sensitive? If you do, let me tell you you are mistaken."

EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH OF GOV. MOREHEAD, OF KY., IN LIVERPOOL, OCTOBER, 1862.

"I was seized at two o'clock in the night in my own bed, dragged from it and from my family without a moment's warning, and carried across the Ohio River in defiance of the writ of habeas corpus. The soldiers ran me by night, by special train, to Indianapolis. One of the Judges of the Supreme Court sent a Marshall with a writ of habeas corpus to bring me back, but I was carried by a special train to Columbus, Ohio; there I was kept a while and afterwards carried on to New York, and hurried to prison in Fort La Fayette. I cannot well conceive any horror more dreadful than was experienced in that prison. Thirty-eight of us were placed in one room, with five thirty-two pounder cannon; the room was sixty-six feet by twenty-two feet, the floor was brick, so damp that our boots would be covered with green mould in the morning; they gave me fourteen pounds of straw to sleep on, about half rotten, and in a very common tick. I am,

without my shoes, six feet high, and my bed measured four feet seven inches. We had one very dirty tin cup to drink out of, and the water we drank was filled with millions of tadpoles. We were locked up at six at night and kept so till six next morning, without any natural conveniences whatever, suffering the agonies of death.

"There was an old man brought from Kentucky, upwards of seventy years of age, he was sick and had been prescribed brandy, he drank it off without mixing it with water, for he saw the tadpoles; the brandy burned him so much he came back, and, soliloquizing, said, 'Well, tadpoles, if you can stand it, I can,' and drank the water. We wrote a letter to Mr. Lincoln, signed by every one, telling him of the horrors endured. In about a month after we were taken to Fort Warren in a steamboat by sea. The captain told me himself the vessel was calculated for two hundred and fifty persons, and she took eleven hundred; we were fifty hours in making the voyage, and all that was given us to eat was a piece of raw salt pork and three sea crackers. We were placed in Fort Warren upon the naked floor, without

bed, blanket or wisp of straw, and in that condition had to remain until we bought such things as we needed. Col. Dimmick, a very kind and humane officer, allowed us to hire a cook, and we lived well after."

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